

Categorical Exclusion

Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

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Chapter 1. Name PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

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BLM Office:Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

1150 University Avenue

Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3844

<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

907-474-2200

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: FF096568, 2930.00 (AK012)

Katharina Merchant
Alaska Ultra Sport
P.O. Box 1125
Chickaloon, Alaska 99674

Proposed Action Title/Type:Special Recreation Permit

Description of Proposed Action:

The applicant, Alaska Ultra Sport (www.alaskaultrasport.com), established in 2001 and operated for the last 12 years by Mr. and Mrs. Merchant, is proposing to conduct a single trip on the Kokolik River. They are requesting an authorization for the period of June – September 2013. The dates of their anticipated trip are June 17 – 24. The trip would be a river float/kayaking and hiking trip. The anticipated trip would consist of two clients and two guides. Mr. & Mrs. Merchant are the guides and owners of the business with no employees

Alaska Ultra Sport will charter a flight with Coyote Air in and out of the area for a total of 2 flights or 4 take off and landings. They will camp one or two nights per location along the river and take day hikes in areas of interest. They bury human waste in accordance with Leave no Trace principles and carry out used toilet paper in zip lock bags.

Alaska Ultra Sport held a BLM permit with the Anchorage Field Office in 2011. Both Mr. & Mrs. Merchant have completed safety training and have experience in remote Alaska conditions. A satellite phone is carried for emergencies and Coyote Air is their point of contact in an emergency. The only fuel used would be a gallon container to use for cooking

Location of Proposed Action:

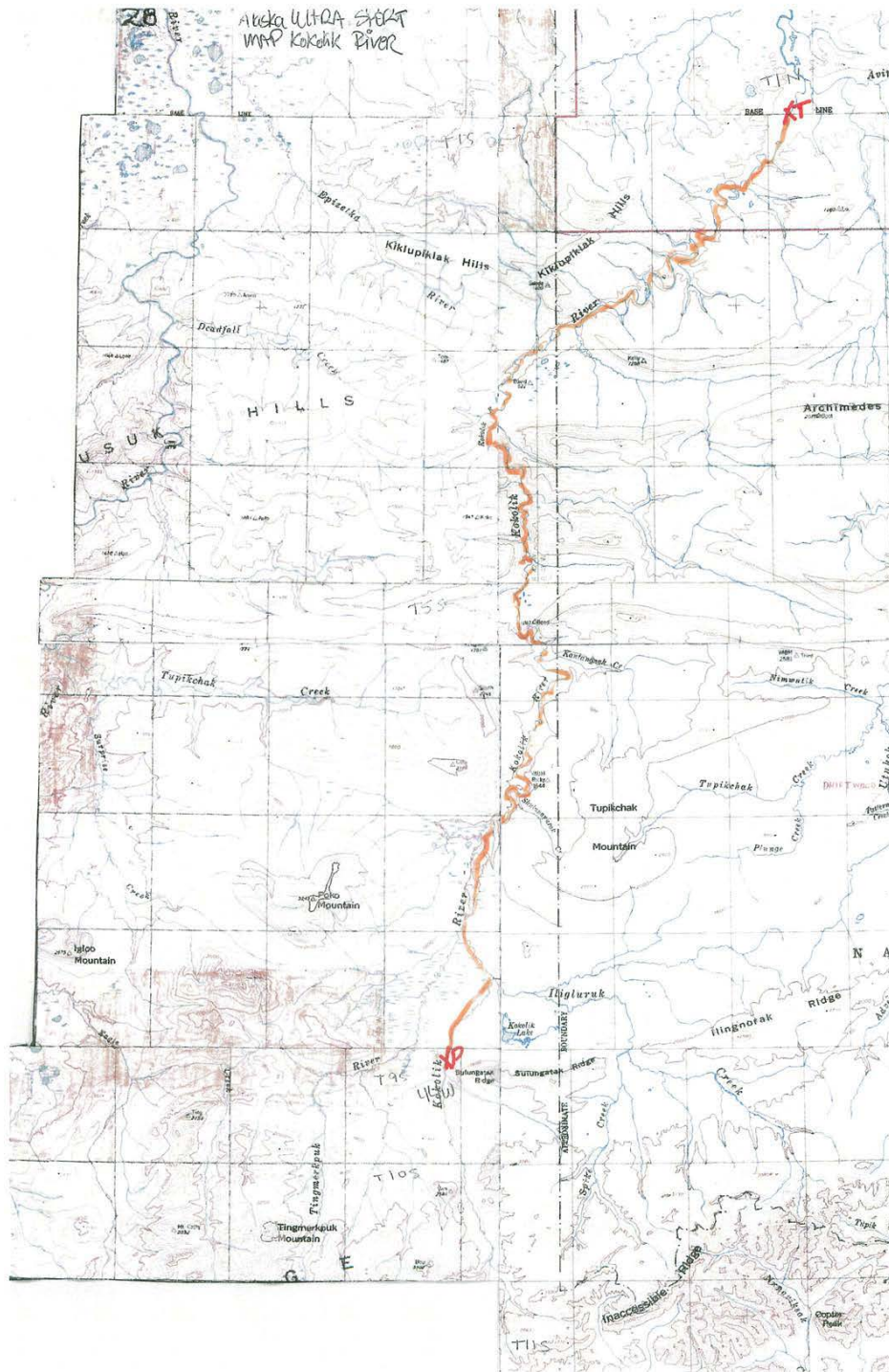


Figure 1.1. Applicant Supplied Map

Legal Description:

Township	Range	River Section on BLM managed land	River Section not on BLM managed Land.
1 South	39 West	5-8, 18	--
1 South	40 West	12-14, 21-28, 33-35	--

2 South	40 West	3-9, 17-18	--
2 South	41 West	12-14, 21-29, 32-33 BLM Lands.	Sec 31 State Land
2 South	42 West	No BLM Managed Lands.	State Land
3 South	42 West	No BLM Managed Lands.	State Land
4 South	42 West	No BLM Managed Lands.	State Land
5 South	42 West	27, 34 BLM Managed Lands Only	State Land
6 South	42 West	No BLM Managed Lands.	State Land
7 South	42 West	No BLM Managed Lands.	State Land
7 South	43 West	No BLM Managed Lands.	State Land
8 South	43 West	No BLM Managed Lands.	State Land
9 South	44 West	No BLM Managed Lands.	ASRC Land

Part I: Plan Conformance Review

The proposed action is subject to the following planning documents:
 National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental
 Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) 2012
 The National Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976

The proposed action is not inconsistent with the purposes of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976. The applicant will be provided with stipulations entitled “FF096568 Alaska Ultra Sport SRP Stipulations 2013” and “United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Commercial Land Based Special Recreation Permit Stipulations.”

_____ Date March 18, 2013
 /s/Donna L. Wixon
 Natural Resource Specialist, Arctic Field Office

C. Part II: NEPA Review and Decision

Categorical Exclusion Review

This proposed action meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, BLM H-1790-1 national Environmental Policy Act Handbook Appendix 4- H. BLM Categorical Exclusions.

“Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan.”

The proposed action has been reviewed to determine if any extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.210 and 46.215, apply.

The proposed action will not meet any of the extraordinary circumstances listed below.

Extraordinary Circumstances	Yes	No
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X

2.2 Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)].		X
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		X
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		X

Date March 18, 2013

/s/Donna L. Wixon

Natural Resource Specialist, Arctic Field Office